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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shelby Newland picked to represent Indiana at Poetry Out Loud finals

Indianapolis – March 2, 2017 - The Indiana State Library (ISL) and the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) announced today that Shelby Newland earned the honor of being named the 2017 Poetry Out Loud Indiana state champion. Newland will compete against representatives from all 50 states, plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, for the national Poetry Out Loud title on April 25-26, 2017 in Washington, D.C. The event will be held at the Lisner Auditorium at The George Washington University. The semifinals and finals will be webcast live. The Midwest and South Central round, which includes Indiana, will be held on April 25, 2017, beginning at 1 p.m.

Newland, a senior at Bloomington High School South in Bloomington, Ind. qualified for the national finals by winning the Indiana state Poetry Out Loud championship held on Feb. 18, 2017 at the Indianapolis Public Library Central Branch. She edged out fourteen other competitors to win the state title.

Newland recited three poems to qualify for the trip to Washington D.C.: “Try to Praise the Mutilated World” by Adam Zagajewski, “The Death of Allegory,” by Billy Collins and “I Remember, I Remember” by Thomas Hood.

“Shelby’s recitations conveyed a thorough knowledge and comprehension of each of her chosen works,” said Wendy Knapp, Indiana Poetry Out Loud state coordinator. “She cultivated a genuine connection with the audience as she invited them to share in her understanding and not just observe. We are honored to have Shelby representing the Hoosier state at the Poetry Out Loud finals in Washington, D.C.”

In addition to the Washington, D.C. trip, Newland earned a \$200 cash prize and \$500 for her school to be used to purchase poetry books.

Now celebrating its twelfth year of national competition, Poetry Out Loud is a partnership between the national Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. The program encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high school students across the country. The Poetry Out Loud national finals are the culmination of a year-long poetry education program involving some 365,000 students, 9,000 teachers and 2,300 high schools across the country. For more information, visit www.poetryoutloud.org.

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